THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to initially use a very high resolution (tens of km. in horizontal) Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model in a joint Indo-US collaborative demonstration experiment of land falling, tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. The WRF model is expected to significantly improve track and intensity prediction of cyclones and thus help in our National Disaster Management Programme. If found suitable after thorough testing and tuning, it may be considered for weather prediction later.

(b) The WRF model has been developed as a community model by a number of groups jointly, spread in various countries, National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA being the steering force. Its present version has already been adapted by a number of research and operational groups in USA, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, India etc. It is claimed to be a very advanced system for atmospheric modeling which can be successfully applied for weather prediction and even seasonal prediction of monsoon.

FDI in Biotech Industry

1205. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to create US $ 5 million biotechnology industry by 2010, Government have decided to allow 100 percent FDI through automatic route;

(b) whether it means that the biotechnology industry is exempted from compulsory licensing; and

(c) the fiscal incentives that Government are proposing to extend to biotech industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has proposed 100% FDI through automatic route in biotech sector. The Department of Biotechnology has recommended the same to DIPP, which is the nodal Department for framing Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Only with the amendment in Industry (Development and Regulation) Act 1951 by the DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and amendment in Pharmaceutical Policy 2002 by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the biotech sector can be out of compulsory licensing.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology has proposed various incentives from time to time to Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for various fiscal incentives to promote biotech sector. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other administrative Ministries/ Departments have implemented depreciation allowance on plant and machinery; customs duty exemption on goods imported for use in R&D projects; customs duty relief under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) programme; 150% weighed income tax deduction on R&D expenditure; 125% rebate if research is contracted in public funded R&D institutions etc. There is a proposal to extend 10-year income tax holiday scheme for R&D companies.

Earnings on a Patent

1206. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have developed an institutional framework which would enable a Scientist to retain a percentage of the earnings on a Patent;

(b) the details of this new system to help Scientists;

(c) in what manner Government would improve the Patent Registration system in the country;

(d) the steps Government propose to encourage scientists to do productive research; and

(e) the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Institutions engaged in R&D projects funded by Ministry of Science and Technology are permitted to own patents generated and also retain the benefits and earnings arising out of the patents. The concerned inventors and other persons can get up to one-third of the actual earnings.

(b) The Government has set up specialized cells/centres in its different departments and agencies which provide technical, financial and legal help to scientists for protecting their inventive work in India and other countries. Intellectual property rights, so generated, are also maintained by these cells/centres.

(c) The Government has enacted new legislation in respect of patents and also modernized the patent offices in the country for receiving and